

child abuse reports and Social Services is ready to assist. It also deals with...the amendment also deals with team meetings. We require that they meet at least quarterly. That's to make sure that there is ongoing communication and hopefully that communication leads to cooperation between the different members of the team. We also clarify that these teams are exempt from the open meetings law. That's an attempt to recognize the discussions they'll hold are very confidential in nature. They're discussing child abuse and neglect reports and those discussions ought to be held in private. With that, I'd move for adoption of the committee amendments and be happy to answer any questions.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Discussion of the committee amendments to LB 1184. Seeing none...oh, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Rasmussen, I have just talked to my staff and they had talked with your staff, were going to meet with you on a couple of questions that I have about the committee amendments and I apologize for not even realizing it till this minute, but I think that does need to be aired and I'm sorry that the bill came up so fast. But the biggest question that I have is in the very beginning of the committee amendment where it says it shall be the duty of the law enforcement agency to investigate the report, to take immediate steps to protect the child and to institute legal proceedings if appropriate. My first question is, does this mean then that CPS workers will not be needed anymore? What does this do to their status?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Ask Senator Rasmussen, please, and also I'll have a couple of follow-up questions about the law enforcement agency itself.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Senator Schimek, actually I'm very glad that you're bringing these questions up because these concerns have been shared with me too and, as you know, there's a meeting coming up next week to try and address them. What we are trying to make clear here, previous to this we've sort of done a coinvestigation role where the DSS had responsibility and so did law enforcement and, as Senator Wesely correctly pointed out, what we are finding is that oftentimes nothing happens because